

Upgrade communications area: 22,769 SF = 2,115 SM.

Demolition/asbestos removal: 3,270 SF = 304 SM.

OFFSHORE DRILLING

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, with today's high price of gasoline, I would like to insert into the RECORD an article reprinted in the Baytown Sun which highlights the need for offshore drilling in our country.

[From the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 24, 2008]

OFFSHORE DRILLING

The legendary Willie Sutton robbed banks because, as he famously explained, that's where the money was.

The United States should take a cue from the late Sutton. It needs to expand drilling for oil and natural gas in offshore waters because that's where many of the nation's biggest untapped petroleum deposits probably can be found. At a time when gasoline prices have soared to the once-unthinkable level of \$4 per gallon, the country is more vulnerable than ever in terms of its exceptionally heavy reliance on foreign oil.

President Bush urged Wednesday that Congress remove a 27-year-old moratorium on offshore drilling. The ban includes waters off the East and West Coasts and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico off southwest Florida. Bush also called for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and areas of the western continental United States with large oil-shale deposits.

Annual U.S. oil production is about 1.8 billion barrels. The Interior Department estimates that up to 10 times that amount—about 19 billion barrels—is potentially recoverable in offshore areas that currently are off-limits to drillers, according to a McClatchy Newspapers report on Bush's proposal.

Democrats called the proposal a gimmick that will backfire on the Republicans.

The Star-Telegram Editorial Board long has supported significantly expanded offshore drilling. We also favor drilling in a limited portion of the Arctic refuge that constitutes only about 8 percent of that vast preserve, which is roughly the size of South Carolina. We're also open to considering expanded drilling in some areas of the Western U.S. . . .

. . . Congress probably won't give serious consideration to lifting the moratorium until after a new president takes office in January. Even if the moratorium were lifted today, motorists shouldn't expect any near-term relief from record-high fuel prices. Major offshore oil and natural gas projects generally take several years to complete and are very expensive. The price tag for a gigantic offshore oil production platform in extremely deep waters could exceed \$1 billion. Likewise, if the Arctic refuge suddenly were opened to drilling, it could be 10 years before oil was produced.

Nevertheless, adopting such policies to expand future oil and natural gas production could contribute to lower energy prices further down the line.

In 2007, 26.8 percent of U.S. oil production and 14.2 percent of natural gas production came from offshore wells.

An exciting discovery by Chevron and two partners in the Gulf of Mexico in late 2006 il-

lustrates the potential for big fields offshore. A test oil well, dubbed "Jack 2," was drilled 175 miles off Louisiana to a total depth of 5.3 miles (19 times the height of New York's 102-story Empire State Building), making it the deepest well successfully tested in the Gulf. It flowed at a prolific 6,000-plus barrels a day and was drilled in a promising geological trend known as the Lower Tertiary, which runs about 200 miles east to west and 30 to 40 miles north to south, Chevron spokesman Mickey Driver said. The area potentially could yield 3 to 15 billion barrels and become the largest domestic oil find since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay discovery in 1968, according to media reports.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. BARBARA ANN TEER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of one of my district's most important leaders, Dr. Barbara Ann Teer, who left this world on July 21, 2008.

Dr. Teer was born on June 18, 1937 in East St. Louis, Illinois to a family of teachers and leaders dedicated to community development. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in dance, she moved to New York City to pursue a career as a dancer, actress, and director. As a performer in New York City, she found work in such shows as 1961's *Where's Daddy?* and 1966's *Kwamina*.

Dissatisfied with the options available to her as a black performer in a predominately hegemonic artistic field, she founded the National Black Theatre, NBT, so that African Americans could meet, share and discuss their creative ideas. She immersed herself in what became a forty year venture that would change the cultural landscape of the performing arts world.

As a cultural visionary she believed in the fundamentals of self-love and spirituality. In 1983, her commitment to and vision of free expression led her to expand the NBT and to purchase a 64,000 square foot building on 125th Street and Fifth Avenue. The new building not only allowed her to house one of the largest New Sacred Yoruba Arts Collection in the Western Hemisphere, but through the artwork she was able to continue the objective of the NBT to provide a place of inspiration and self-expression through spirituality.

With the National Black Theatre, Dr. Teer created an exceptional institution that to this day continues to inspire cultural appreciation and transformation, social change, freedom of expression, historic relevance, self-empowerment, and futuristic innovation.

Dr. Teer dedicated her life to creating a platform that would allow people to experiment through trial and error so that they could achieve a spiritual aura that would allow them to fully express themselves through the performing arts. Through all her tremendous efforts and achievements, Dr. Teer has been duly honored, receiving countless awards and numerous Honorary Doctorate Degrees.

Although Dr. Barbara Ann Teer has passed, her life's work will continue to affect those who are searching for a way to break free from a world that sometimes limits their ability to express their minds and souls. Dr.

Barabara Ann Teer was a visionary, a cultural icon. She will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY BANG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peggy Bang of Mason City, Iowa, on being named the 2007-08 Higher Ed Art Educator of the Year by Art Educators of Iowa.

Peggy is celebrating her 35th year as an art educator, the last 23 of which have been spent at North Iowa Area Community College, NIACC, in Mason City, where she is the current visual arts instructor. After spending the early years of her career teaching elementary art, Peggy earned an MS from Bank Street College in cooperation with Parson School of Design in New York.

Peggy, who was a founding member of the MacNider Art Museum foundation, has been a board member of the museum for the past 21 years and is the current Vice President. She also played an important role in the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Stockman House in Mason City and was the first coordinator for the statewide Youth Art Month.

Over the years, Peggy has contributed greatly to her community through her involvement in art, inspiring many students along the way. I am honored to represent Peggy Bang in Congress, and I wish her the very best as she continues to serve as a mentor and role model to the students and instructors at NIACC and the Mason City community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, in compliance with Republican Conference earmark disclosure requirements, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill.

Account: Military Construction/VA; Department of Defense; Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Connecticut Air National Guard located at Bradley International Airport, Connecticut.

Address of Requesting Entity: Bradley International Airport, Schoephoester Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096.

Description of Request: Along with the entire Connecticut House Congressional delegation, I received a \$7,200,000 earmark for construction of an engine shop at Bradley International Airport to support the unit's assigned mission of providing an engine Centralized Immediate Repair Facility capability and also provide the capability for a Joint Cargo bed-down. The engines maintained will support the mission operations of A-10 aircraft equipped units in the Air Force and the Air National Guard.